

EARTH DAY

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"Earth Day achieved what I had hoped for. The objective was to get a nation-wide demonstration of concern for the environment so large that it would shake the political establishment out of its lethargy and, finally, force this issue permanently onto the national political agenda."
- [Senator Gaylord Nelson](#), founder of Earth Day

Earth Day was first observed on April 22, 1970, when an estimated 20 million people nationwide attended the inaugural event. Groundbreaking federal legislation followed the success of the first Earth Day with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency being established in 1970, followed by the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act of 1972, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. By the twentieth anniversary of Earth Day, more than 200 million people in 141 countries around the globe had participated in celebrations to mark the day.

In the United States, Earth Day serves to affirm that environmental awareness is part of the country's consciousness and that the idea of protecting the environment -- once the province of a few conservationists -- has moved from the extreme to the mainstream of American thought.

EARTH DAY 2009: PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION

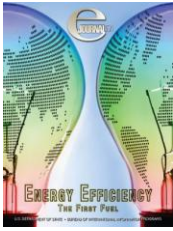
by the President of the United States of America



The story of the United States is inextricably tied to our vital natural resources. As we enter a new era filled with challenges and promise, we must protect our land, wildlife, water and air -- the resources that have fueled our growth and prosperity as a Nation and enriched our lives. Doing this not only fulfills a sacred obligation to our children and grandchildren, but also provides an opportunity to stimulate economic growth. ([Click here to read full text](#))

GREEN GENERATION

Energy Efficiency: The First Fuel (April 2009) - Increasing the efficient use of existing energy supplies is widely acknowledged as the fastest, cheapest, and cleanest way to meet future energy needs. This journal examines the strong U.S. record of tapping efficiency as a resource, as well as the accelerated efforts by individuals, organizations, and governments to squeeze greater productivity from all energy sources.



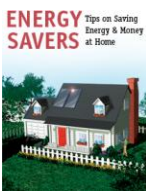
Greensburg, Kansas Rises from Rubble - Greensburg, Kansas, a farming community of 1,400 people, was literally blown away by a tornado in 2007. Faced with a decision to let Greensburg become a ghost town or resurrect it, its citizens decided to rebuild and create a new identity for their town. Today, Greensburg is turning itself into the most environmentally-friendly or "greenest" community in the United States. As President Obama has said, the town "is being rebuilt by its residents as a global example of how clean energy can power an entire community, how it can bring jobs and businesses."



America Wind Power on Rise - The United States is the world's third largest producer of wind energy, trailing only behind Germany and Spain. Wind power currently accounts for only about one percent of America's total electricity use, but with the growth of wind power market this share could increase to 20 percent by 2030, according to the Energy Department. The financial rescue bill signed into law October 3, 2008 under President Bush extends tax credits for alternative energy sources that will help sustain fast growth of the wind power industry.



EARTH DAY: EVERYDAY TIPS AND TRICKS FOR IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT



Energy Savers - Explore ways to save energy and improve the environment by taking simple steps around your home. The U.S. Department of Energy's Earth Day web site offers you many tips and fun ways to protect the environment and your health every day. Find out for more tips at <http://www.energy.gov/energytips.htm>

Blogging for Efficiency - Utility bills and the cost of energy are popular topics for conversation among everyday American consumers. The Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy recognizes that with its Energy Savers Blog, an ongoing online discussion among consumers trying to find smart ways to save energy.



Live, Learn, Play: Tune into Your Health and Environment - Did you know that the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the food you eat can affect the way your body grows and works? It's true. By learning about hazards in the environment (water, air pollution, pesticides, etc...), and how they can affect your health, you can take charge of your environment and make a real difference in your life and the lives of your family and friends.

The Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste - Individual consumers can help alleviate mounting trash problem by making environmentally aware decisions about everyday things like shopping and caring for the lawn. Like the story that says that cats have nine lives, so do many of the items we use every day.

EARTH DAY MULTIMEDIA

Young Environmentalists (2:00 min)



Young Americans and students from around the world work together to make positive change and ensure a healthy planet in the future. The speakers are students and faculty at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine.

The Greening of San Francisco (3:03 min)



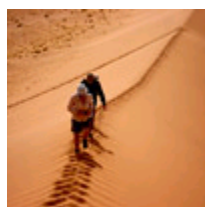
San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and city officials describe their aggressive goals for "greening" the city using its own renewable resources.

Renewable Energy and Climate Change (2:11 min)



The development of clean renewable energy sources by countries around the world may help to avert or lessen climate change and meet growing worldwide energy needs.

JOIN THE EARTH DAY VIDEO AND PHOTO PROJECT!



What do you do to reduce your carbon footprint? Can you swim or play in the water near your home? What have you done to improve the environment in your home, school or workplace? Americans are getting involved in protecting our environment – please share your experience and images with the world!

Throughout the month of April, in honor of Earth Day on April 22, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will feature videos and photos from the public. Visit their website and see how you can call others to action through your vision!

Video Project: <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/videoproject/>

Photo Project: <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/photoproject/>

WEB RESOURCES

EarthDay.gov

<http://www.earthday.gov/>

U.S. Department of Energy

<http://www.energy.gov/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>

U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs

<http://www.america.gov/global/envIRON.html>

U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/>

The Library of Congress

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/today/apr22.html>